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The Historian as Foreign Policy Analyst: The Challenge of the CIA

SUMNER BENSON

PROFESSIONAL HISTORIANS and the institutions of American foreign policy have been engaged in increasingly fruitful relationships in the years since World War II. Just as individuals like George F. Kennan and Herbert Feis have linked the worlds of diplomacy and historical research, so the profession has established "institutional beachheads"¹ in the historical offices of the Department of State, the military services, and in smaller numbers, the Departments of Defense and Energy. In these offices historians working as historians have applied rigorous scholarly standards in editing primary sources, most notably the *Foreign Relations of the United States*.

* This paper is a revised version of a talk presented at the annual meeting of the Pacific Coast Branch of the American Historical Association, University of Southern California, August 1980.

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1. The concept is taken from Otis L. Graham, Jr., "Historians and the World of (Off-Campus) Power," *The Public Historian*, Volume I, Number 2 (Winter 1979), 34.

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